



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we close this school year, I should like to pay tribute to our pupils; our parents and carers and all of our staff here at school. There has been a remarkable team effort taking place these past few months which has allowed us to navigate our way through one of the most challenging times in my career in education. My overriding message to you is, **'well done and thank you very much for your wonderful support'**. We have been inundated with the loveliest messages of thanks and support from families and these really do bring great cheer to us in school.

September: You will have many questions about the return in September. I shall be writing **separately** to you at the start of next week with the first layer of information about the return in September. Please do not look for such information in this letter.

Staff leaving us

I should like to pay tribute to the colleagues who are leaving us this year; some for other schools, others to enjoy what we hope will be a long and happy retirement. In each case people have served our school very well indeed and, on your behalf, I thank them for their dedication and commitment to our school community. For some people this has been over many, many years. We thank them and wish them well:

Mr Bagnoli	Cover Supervisor	Retiring
Miss Burgun	Teacher of Geography	End of Temporary Contract
Mrs Buyers	Teacher of Mathematics	Retiring
Miss Crawley	Temporary Teacher of RE	St Gregory's, Warrington
Miss Cree	Principal Teacher of Science	Bolton Girls' School
Mr Gallagher	Teacher of Science and Workskills	Retiring
Miss Holland	Teacher of RE	Cardinal Allen, Fleetwood
Miss Kulbacki	Teacher of English	Retiring
Mr Smith	Temporary Teacher of Mathematics	Tauheedul Boys' High School, Blackburn
Mrs Thompson	Temporary Teacher of Geography	Archbishop Temple School, Preston

Gatsby Benchmarks Awarded

I am delighted to announce that we have been recognised as achieving the 8 Gatsby benchmarks; a framework of 8 guidelines that define the best careers provision in secondary schools. We have made great progress in this area over the past 18 months and now deliver a programme that has been recognised as 'exemplar..., clearly impactful and embedded across the school at every level, ensuring all young people experience Careers provision that is individualised to meet their needs'. For each student at our school, our governors, senior leadership team and staff share the same ambition; to deliver a fulfilling and comprehensive careers programme that is inclusive, individualised and meaningful. We work collaboratively within our community and encompass the expertise of employers, parents/carers and further education and training providers to establish a culture of ambition. Our pupils benefit by being provided with a platform to talk openly and receive guidance about their future and improve their awareness of labour markets and careers. They also improve their decision making; develop their employability skills; learn from their experiences of employment and the experience of employers and all whilst growing and nurturing their unique aspirations.

Outward bound summer opportunities

We have been made aware of some adventure days being provided by the Outward Bound Trust this summer. To check how to apply and eligibility please follow the link below. This looks like a lovely opportunity and may be of interest to some families.

<https://www.outwardbound.org.uk/blog/1000-free-days-of-adventure-this-summer>

Reading Newsletter

We are launching a reading newsletter and a short first issue will be emailed to you today. Thank you for all your support in encouraging, supporting and promoting reading.

English Summer Reading Challenge

During the time school has been closed, Our Lady's pupils have continued to read. This summer we are setting pupils a reading challenge to keep them reading. The **Our Lady's Reading Challenge** can be found on the English Google Classroom where pupils will also find links to online books and the details for how to log on to myON, which is a personalised digital library that Mrs Towers (our librarian) has secured free access to until the end of August. While the Reading Challenge is not compulsory, we hope that many pupils will enter! There will be prizes and all pupils who complete it will be rewarded for doing so.

Bikeability

Please see the link below for any pupil interested in completing the free bikeability course this summer:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childrens-level-1-2-and-3-bikeability-free-holiday-activity-preston-tickets-113448932812>

Online Safety

Schools have been asked to share some information with parents regarding online safety. Please see the information sheets attached with this Newsletter.

Conclusion

When lockdown began, I shared with you a poem. It is copied again below. I wish for you all a safe, healthy and relaxed summer break and look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.
And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses,
and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

(Kitty O'Meara)

Nigel Ranson
Headteacher